

Parks and Recreation

2002-2003 was another year of growth for the Parks and Recreation Department. Many projects were completed, while a great deal of planning for the future occurred.

Old Blacksburg Middle School

- Worked with the Virginia Tech Business/Technology Center to develop a business plan for the Old Blacksburg middle school. Presented information to Town Council about an RFP for the old Blacksburg Middle School. A group of non-profit organizations along with Blacksburg Parks and Recreation, proposed to re-use the building.

Golf Course

- Construction was completed on a golf cart storage building at the Hill. It will house the new fleet of electric carts.
- Secured bids for new electric golf carts. Motive Power (Club Car) was low bid.
- The first ever Night Golf Tournament was held at the Hill
- The course is increasing the numbers and types of programs that are offered.
- The Golf Supervisor completed his second year of the National Institute of Golf Management. This will enable him to further the development of the golf course through sound management and financial forecasting.

Community Center

- Hiring procedures for the Department were discussed with Human Resources and the Attorney. Addition background and social services checks will be standard.
- Jack Leahy was hired as the Community Center Supervisor. Jack is the former director for the Pulaski YMCA. He brings years of programming and management experience to the position.
- Video Games were added to the game room at the Community Center. Profits will be split 50/50 with the distributor—Aldridge Amusements, Inc.

Park Development

- The Parks and Recreation Director and Town Attorney presented the Gateway proposal to Town Council, and it was approved. The Town closed on the purchase of the Gateway Park property.
- Construction has begun on the Heritage Park parking lot on Meadowbrook Drive and concept plans are being drawn for the trail to the Gateway Park.
- The Parks and Recreation Director are working with Town Attorney to draft an agreement between the Town and Virginia Tech on the maintenance of the Huckleberry Trail.

- Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department working with Appalachian Trail Conference and Blue Ridge Outdoors on Trail Building Day for the connection to the National Forest from the Gateway Park.
- The Evening Rotary Club purchased a 24' x 44' picnic shelter for the Heritage Park, which they intend to install for our department.

Programs/facilities

- Tot-Lot, State Licensed Program, passed the Social Services routine visits.
- Developed and designed a new promotional brochure for the Aquatic Center. This brochure also houses the 2-week daily schedule for the facility.
- Interviewed consultants for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Negotiations are taking place with Land Design of North Carolina. The plan will be developed in 2003-2004 and will give direction for park development, programs and facilities.
- First Night Blacksburg 2003 was held. The program went well but attendance was lower than past years. Conflict of the time of the event and Virginia Tech football bowl game contributed to the lower numbers.
- The Director attended an Active Living by Design meeting about possible grant opportunities for greenways. A Bikes Belong grant was submitted.
- Sent out RFP for scheduling software for recreation programs and facilities has been submitted to Purchasing.
- Coin lockers were ordered for the Aquatic Center. This will greatly help in the "Lost Key" problems we have in the locker rooms and will be added revenue for the facility.
- Received a new greenhouse to help expand our programming and offerings to the public. The Director attended the VA Inland & Fisheries State Wildlife Trail meeting in Roanoke. Heritage Park is going to one of the locations on the trail.
- Worked on conceptual plan for interchange 34-acre tract location.
- Outdoor Supervisor completed Wilderness First Aid Certification, which meets the American Camping Association's National Standards.
- Improvement to the Jaycee and the old Blacksburg Middle School ball field fences are underway. New fences, addition dirt, and painted light poles were the major items in this project.
- The Senior Division continued to work on the area senior games program that will be hosted by our Department. Approximately 200 area seniors will participate in early May for this 7-day event.
- The Director and Supervisors attended the 1st public meeting for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2043.
- Risk Management plans are completed for the outdoor, aquatic, and senior divisions to assist in the safety of our programs and participants.

Planning For The Future

- The Recreation Advisory Board held an open meeting with Town Council to discuss the Heritage Park plans. Over 200 people attended to state their opinions.

- Continue to work with Noontime Rotary on the development of Wong Park. Work days for clean up are being scheduled and long term park development, financing supported by the Rotary.
- Parks and Recreation staff visited Leesburg Parks and Recreation with the Town Manager to view facilities and their annual Garden/Flower Show. This type of program will be offered in Blacksburg during the 2003-2004 year. Parks and Recreation staff has started regular meetings and assignments for next year special event: Blacksburg Flower and Garden Festival.

Interdepartmental Cooperation

- Worked on Johnson Controls Agreement for Energy Efficiency. (Lighting, water consumption and energy use)
- The Director is assisting the Police Department with strategic planning for the future direction of the department.
- The Director organized team-building retreats for the Executive Management Team on a six-month basis to assist with communication and cooperation between departments.
- Working with Finance Department on Tax-ID for sale of products at the Aquatic Center. The Aquatic Center plans to offer a variety of products (goggles, shampoo, etc) for purchase.
- Director, Community Center Supervisor, and Administrative Assistant attended a Grammar Workshop in Roanoke.
- Director attended a meeting with the Mayor concerning Jamestown Celebration 2007.
- Developed contracts with outside agencies that use our facilities for their recreational organization.